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ABSTRACT

Prepared with the new user in mind, this manual is designed to make the process of learning to use a computer bulletin board system (CBBS) easier, and to make continued use more effective. The manual provides a detailed review of the commands, procedures, and display screens needed for access to the School Board Bulletin Board System, an education-oriented CBBS operated by the Educational Information and Resource Center in Sewell, New Jersey. Descriptions of computer bulletin board systems, School Board, and the RBBS-PC computer bulletin board software program used by School Board are provided as well as an overview of School Board's features. Detailed discussions of the following topics are provided: (1) First-Time Use of the School Board; (2) School Board Entry as a Registered User; (3) Message Subsystem; (4) File Subsystem; (5) Utilities Subsystem; and (6) Conference Subsystem. The discussions include step-by-step procedures for using this CBBS and are illustrated by numerous simulated screen displays. (KM)

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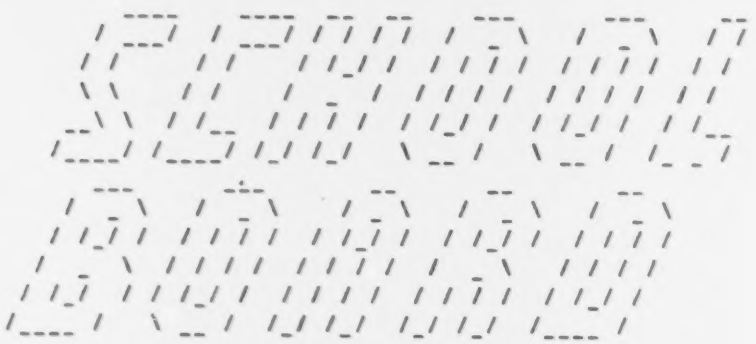
A NAVIGATION GUIDE FOR THE



A Computer Bulletin Board System operated by
the Educational Information & Resource Center

by Richard Titus

School Board System Operator & Coordinator of Computer Training

the Educational Information & Resource Center
207 Delsea Drive, Sewell NJ 08080

voice (609) 228-6000 x 209

board (609) 228-1359 (300/1200 bps)

First Edition
March, 1987

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Foreword

If you've never used a computer bulletin board system before, the procedures needed to use its various features can be overwhelming, particularly if you're also new to on-line computer communication.

With the new user in mind, the Guide has been prepared to make this process easier and to help you get the most from your use of the SCHOOL BOARD.

A Navigation Guide for the School Board, is a detailed review of the commands, procedures, and display screens needed for access the SCHOOL BOARD Bulletin Board System, operated by the Educational Information & Resource Center.

While the Guide was developed for use as an instructional aid, many first time users will find it helpful in becoming familiar with the Board and its functions.

The Guide is one in a series of EIRC publications that are targeted toward encouraging greater instructional use of the rich resources available in on-line computing.

School computer users may also be interested in a companion Guide, The Instructional CBBS, presents instructional on-line activities that can be used within computer curriculum or as a basis for actually developing a school CBBS.

At present, the use of CBBS is wide-spread among hobbyists, but is still quite new in the schools. We'd like to invite your participation in the SCHOOL BOARD and encourage your ideas and suggestions on instructional on-line work.

3/87 rt

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.1 What is a Computer Bulletin Board System (CBBS) ?

While their possibilities are still being explored, established uses for CBBS include:

General Public Messages

Early computer bulletin board systems developed as electronic versions of the cork bulletin boards at supermarkets, drug stores, or libraries.

CBBS provide a means for computer users to post messages to other computer users. CBBS users list items for sale, post general information, and use their boards to seek help with a specialized computer problem.

Electronic Mail

Most bulletin boards provide "electronic mail" services so that private messages can be exchanged among registered uses of the system. This often permits 24-hour access to messages that may be missed in trying use traditional telephone contacts.

Public Domain Software

Many bulletin boards, including the SCHOOL BOARD, contain program files that can be run on different types of computers. Currently we have programs for IBM-PC compatible and Commodore and maintain special interest conferences for Tandy and Commodore computer users.

Business Applications

The value of bulletin board systems is not lost on computer users within the business community.

Bulletin boards for real estate, legal, medical users, and vets have developed specialized BBS that permit after-hours as well as day-time access to a variety of professional information that was not previously economical or practical.

Governmental Applications

Community bulletin boards, such as those established in Cleveland and Bekeley, allow public access to a broad array of services and information.

.1 What is a Computer Bulletin Board System (CBBS) ?

Educational Applications

While they are slowly finding their way into schools, one of the most promising uses for the computer bulletin board system is in computer training of students within public and private schools.

Short of setting up a local CBBS in schools or administrative offices, the use of established local CBBS can provide an economical means of demonstrating computer-based on line communication.

We're encouraging schools to experiment with CBBS and to make use of the SCHOOL BOARD in sampling a model they might like to use and adapt for local computer education programs of their own.

No matter what your purpose or interest, we invite you to join the SCHOOL BOARD often and to feel free to make suggestions for its growth and development.

.2 About the SCHOOL BOARD

Origin

The SCHOOL BOARD began in September 1986. Since that time it has been available on a 24-hour basis, with the exceptions of normal maintenance and scheduled training. As of March 1, 1987 the SCHOOL BOARD had more than 150 registered users from locations that including California, Kansas, Texas, and Florida.

Equipment & Software

The SCHOOL BOARD is operated on an IBM-XT with 20mb hard disk drive, with a Hayes 1200B modem and using the RBBS-PC computer bulletin board program developed by Tom Mack and distributed by the Capital PC User Group. More about that shortly.

.2 About the SCHOOL BOARD

Regular Features

Like many other computer bulletin board systems, the SCHOOL BOARD provides bulletins, announcements of events, electronic mail, and text and program files that may be downloaded by users.

Special Features

The SCHOOL BOARD maintains conference sections for Commodore and Radio Shack computer owners and for ACCESS, a telecommunication education project of EIRC.

- **o Access**
- **o CAP link**

The SCHOOL BOARD also serves as a message and file link to the northern New Jersey field office the Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) project.

Availability

At present, no membership or access fees are assessed for the use of the System, and user validation is granted with initial log-on to the system.

Production Information

The Guide was prepared with the Word Perfect word processing program version 4.2 Screen displays shown in this Guide were those used on the SCHOOL BOARD as of February, 1987. These displays are updated from time to time, however, the procedures will apply regardless of the particular "look" of the screen.

.3 About RBBS-PC

Friends & Supporters

The idea that the SCHOOL BOARD could be built was based on the work of Brian and Ted Hare, who have operated the COMPUTER CONNECTION, an RBBS-PC Board in Kirkwood NJ, for several years.

The CONNECTION is a well-managed and highly regarded RBBS-PC board and Ted gave most generously of his time and advice in the development of the SCHOOL BOARD.

Mark Pinkstone, Sysop for LEX (Philadelphia) was another RBBS Sysop who lent encouragement and technical assistance in the start-up phase of our development.

The Founding Father of RBBS-PC

Ted, in turn, was encouraged in his work by Tom Mack, author of the RBBS-PC software on which both Boards are based.

The RBBS-PC story is an outstanding example of "democratic" ideals applied to the domain of human knowledge as well as applications software. The documentation for RBBS-PC traces this growth and the reader is encouraged to consult this source for full details.

The program features and capabilities that you use on the SCHOOL BOARD are the result of thousthousands of hours donated by scores of knowledgable collaborators.

Source for RBBS-PC

If you'd like your own copy of this program, send $8.00 to:

the Capital PC Software Exchange
P.O. Box 6128
Silver Spring MD 20906

.4 Overview

The SCHOOL BOARD is a computer-based bulletin board system that may be accessed 24-hours daily via a 300 or 1200 bps modem through a direct line at (609) 228-1359.

the Bulletin Board "environment"

Once connected to the school board, control is assumed by a program (RBBS-PC) that creates an "environment" presented on the user's screen. Before beginning your work with THE SCHOOL BOARD, it may be helpful to sketch an overview of the Board and its operation.

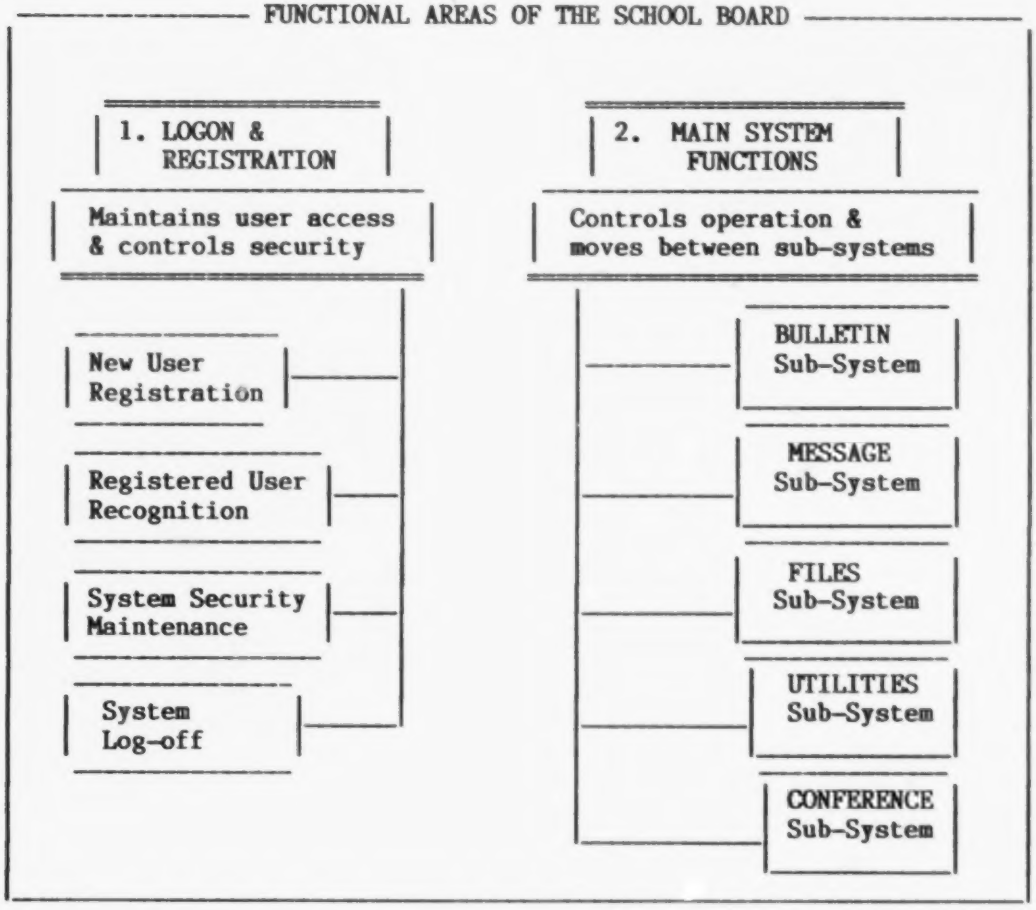

Figure 1 - Functional Areas of the SCHOOL BOARD

.4 Overview

1. Registration — At the time you initially use the SCHOOL BOARD a registration process will establish you as a recognized user of the system. This information will include your first and last name, location, and the type of computer you are using.

2. Recognition — Each time you use the Board thereafter, you must use the password you selected during the registration session. It's important to use exactly the same name and password each time. Otherwise, you'll be viewed as a new user and must repeat the registration process.

3. Bulletins — The bulletin sub-system contains the standing bulletins posed by the System Operator (Sysop). Be sure to check them periodically.

4. Files — Several directories of programs you may download are contained in Files sub-system. They are added by the Sysop and other users.

5. Messages — A message Sub-system allows you to read all general (unprotected) messages, and private (protected) messages addressed to you. You may also enter general and private messages.

6. Utilities — A Utility Sub-system permits you to: change basic communication settings for your display, review system use, time on the system, and file transmission protocols.

7. Conferences — A Conference Sub-system permits the exchange of messages within a specialized conference. If the conference is designated private, only users designated by the Sysop may participate.

8. Log-off — Normal log-off from the Board is done with the G command. After 3 minutes of inactivity, however, the Board will automatically drop the connection and reset for the next user.

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1.1 Dial-Up (609-228-1359)

The SCHOOL BOARD is operated 24-hours, except for maintenance down-time and use in training sessions at EIRC. If you receive a busy signal try back. If you have continuing difficulty in connecting with the Board, call 228-6000 x 209 for voice communcation with the Sysop.

1.2 Connect Message

After connecting to the SCHOOL BOARD you'll see this prompt:

```
WELCOME TO THE SCHOOL BOARD
What is your FIRST Name?
```

1.3 Name Entry

Enter your first name, and press [RETURN].
The next prompt will then appear:

```
What is your LAST Name?
```

Enter your last name, then press [RETURN]

1.4 Registration Check

```
! Checking Users...          !
```

Your name will be checked in the file of registered users. If it isn't found, the Board will begin registration process with the prompt:

```
What type of system are you calling from
 [ENTER] if IBMPC
```

If you are operating an IBM-PC the system will insert the name of that system. Otherwise, key in the name of your computer system. Then enter the location from which you are calling.

1.5 Location Entry

```
What is your CITY and STATE?
```

1.6 Introductory Text

The text shown on the next few pages is the text you'll see displayed during your first log-on to the System. On your first visit, allow all text to be completed. It will not be repeated after registration.

1.7 Registration Session Display

After entering the information requested above, the Board will display some introductory information. These screens will not be repeated after your registration.

```
o                                o

  WELCOME TO THE SCHOOL BOARD

o                                o
```

Before continuing on, take a few minutes to review the purposes and policies of our electronic bulletin board system.

PURPOSE

THE SCHOOL BOARD is maintained by the EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION & RESOURCE CENTER (EIRC) in support of its various missions as a non-profit agency. In operating the SCHOOL BOARD we actively promote computer-based ON-LINE EDUCATION and to facilitate free (and lawful) exchange and discussion of information, ideas and opinions.

```
o                                                  o

                GENERAL USER POLICIES

  We generally expect our users to refrain from
 entering any communication that would compromise
 the national security of the United States,
 violate proprietary rights or personal privacy,
 violate State, Federal or local law affecting
 telecommunication, or that would constitute a
 crime or libel.

o                                                  o
```

We ask that ALL USERS SUPPLY THEIR REAL NAMES and disclose any personal, financial, or commercial interests in representing a specific product or service.

1.7 **Registration Session Display** - continued

```
 ------------------------------------------------------------
| o                                                        o |
|         NOTE TO SCHOOL BOARD USERS ON FILE POLICY         |
|                                                          |
|     IS THE POLICY OF THIS BULLETIN BOARD NOT TO USE      |
|   COPYRIGHT MATERIAL. IF COPYRIGHT MATERIAL IS UPLOADED  |
|   USER REGISTRATION MAY BE REVOKED, AND THE FILE SECTION |
|    WILL BE DISCONTINUED.                                 |
| o                                                        o |
 ------------------------------------------------------------
Above all we welcome you to add your ideas and suggestions for
making THE SCHOOL BOARD more useful and interesting place for
yourself and others.Please use the Board freely and frequently
and add something of yourself to its growth and development.
------------------------------------------------------------

                Computer Training Center at EIRC
                207 Delsea Drive, Sewell NJ 08080
             Educational Information & Resource Center
          voice (609) 228-6000 x209 Richard Titus, Sysop
```

1.8 **Registration Options**

After the introductory information has scrolled you will be given several options:

```
FIRST LAST NAME from TOWN, STATE
<C>hange name/address, <D>isconnect (don't register), <R>egister?
```

To change the and/or address use the C option and re-enter them.
To terminate the session enter a D and you'll be logged off.
To continue, enter an R and the following prompt will appear:

```
Enter PASSWORD you'll use to logon again?
Re-enter PASSWORD for verification (Dots will Echo)? ....
Please REMEMBER your password
```

The second line asks you to repeat the password. The dots will cover your entry, just at they will when you log on next time. After re-entering your password, a message will remind you that the system w i l l n o t d i s p l a y y o u r p a s s w o r d a g a i n .

1.9 System Options

The following four prompts, presented in sequence during your registration, help the Board accommodate the particular computer and terminal program you are using. To select the options, enter the letter of your choice at the appropriate prompt.

1.91 Upper/Lower Case

```
CAN YOUR TERMINAL DISPLAY LOWER CASE (Y/N)? y or n are expected
UPPER CASE and lower or the option you've chosen
```

1.92 Graphics

```
GRAPHICS wanted: <N>one,<A>scii,<C>olor,<H>elp? enter n,a,c or h
GRAPHICS: None or the option you've chosen
```

The SCHOOL BOARD does not currently support color or graphics. Any choice, however, is acceptable.

1.93 File Transfer Protocol

```
FILE transfer default type <A>scii <X>modem <C>Xmodem/CRC <N>one? X
PROTOCOL: Xmodem or the option you've chosen
```

The file transfer type will depend on your terminal program. For more information, see your instruction manual for options available for your particular program, or refer to page 35 of the Guide.

1.94 Nulls

```
     Nulls needed (Y,N)? N
     Nulls Off
```

The next prompt asks if you need "nulls." (Character blanks once needed so the computer could keep pace with teletype printers). Unless you're using very old equipment, select N for off.

With the options completed, you will be logged onto the system.

1.10 Initial Log-on

After completing the System Options, you'll then be logged on the SCHOOL BOARD and the name you used to register will be displayed:

```
Logging YOUR NAME
```

This will be followed an identification of the RBBS-PC program and version being used, and the baud rate and parity settings that the system read from your computer.

```
RBBS-PC VERSION CPC14.1D  NODE  1
     OPERATING AT 1200 BAUD,N,8,12
```

1.11 Scroll Commands

A line of scroll commands will then be displayed. You may want to practice use of these commands as the following welcome screen begins to appear.

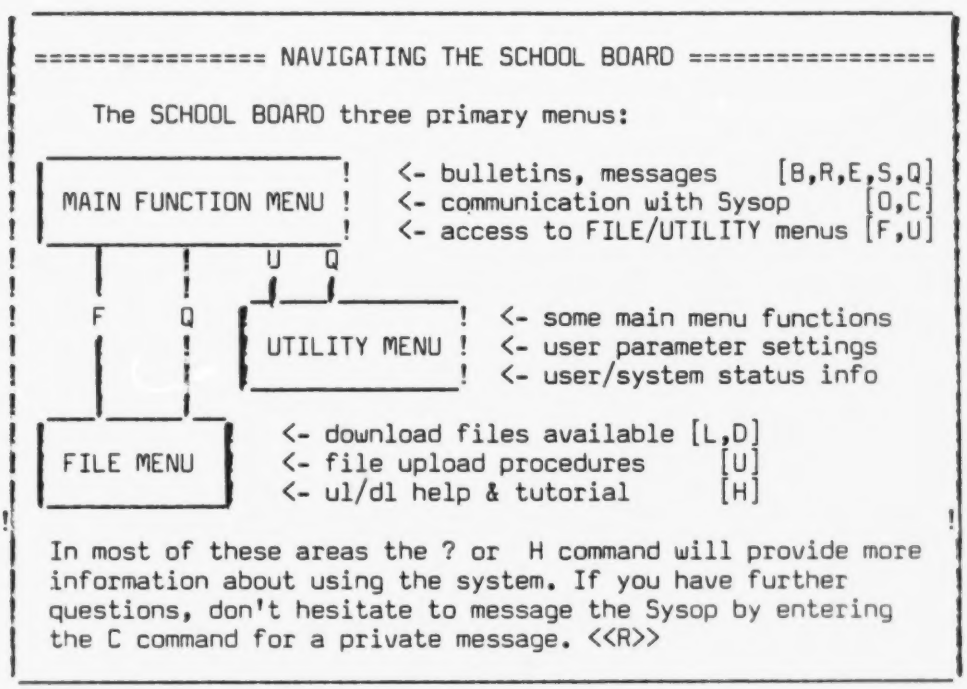
```
* <Ctrl K> or <Ctrl X> aborts <Ctrl S> suspends *
```

1.12 Welcome Screen

```
W E L C O M E   T O   t h e
24 hours * 300/1200bps
A service of the
EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER
207 Delsea Drive, Sewell NJ 08080
Voice (609) 228-6000 Richard Titus/Sysop
```

1.13 System Overview

The welcome screen will be immediately followed by a System Overview screen. The System Overview screen is a part of the Inital Log-on session and may also be displayed from the MAIN FUNCTION MENU by entering the ? command.


NAVIGATING THE SCHOOL BOARD
The SCHOOL BOARD three primary menus:
MAIN FUNCTION MENU
<- bulletins, messages [B,R,E,S,Q]
<- communication with Sysop [O,C]
<- access to FILE/UTILITY menus [F,U]
U Q
F Q
UTILITY MENU
<- some main menu functions
<- user parameter settings
<- user/system status info
FILE MENU
<- download files available [L,D]
<- file upload procedures [U]
<- ul/dl help & tutorial [H]
In most of these areas the ? or H command will provide more information about using the system. If you have further questions, don't hesitate to message the Sysop by entering the C command for a private message. <<R>>

1.14 **Bulletin Prompt**

After the welcome screen scrolls up, you'll see the following BULLETIN OPTION prompt:

```
Would you like to skip the 10 bulletins? n
```

Entering a Y or pressing the [ENTER] key will by-pass the bulletin option. If you enter N, a listing of the bulletins will appear:

```
        SCHOOL BOARD Bulletins
        ----------------------
  1.  609-area bulletin boards
  2.  EVENTS CALENDAR
  3.  PC TRAINING
  4.  APPLE TRAINING

Bulletin # 1 thru 4, L)ist, Press [ENTER] to Continue?
```

To read a bulletin, enter the its number at the prompt. When the bulletin is finished the bulletin prompt will return. When you are finished reading bulletins press [ENTER] and the Board will check your mail.

1.15 **Mail Check**

Each time you log on the Board, a check is made of mail addressed to you. On your first session, there will be no mail. After you've begun to exchange messages, the numbers of these messages will be reported during these mail checks.

```
Checking messages...
Sorry, YOUR FIRST NAME, NO MAIL for you
```

This concludes the section FIRST TIME USE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD. From this point your use of the Board will be as a registered user.

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2.1 Log-on

As a registered user, the log-on process is considerably shorter than entry as a new user. On connecting, you'll see the welcome message and a the following prompts:

```
WELCOME TO THE SCHOOL BOARD

  What is your FIRST Name?   <- enter first name [RETURN]
  What is your LAST Name?    <- enter last name  [RETURN]
  Checking Users...
```

After entering your first name and last name, a search for your name among registered users begins. If your name is registered, a third prompt for your password will appear:

```
Enter Password (dots will echo)? ....
```

If your password is confirmed the following message will appear:

```
  Granted access level 5
  Logging YOUR NAME
  RBBS-PC VERSION CPC14.1D  NODE  1
  OPERATING AT 1200 BAUD,N,8,1
```

2.2 Entry Stacking

You can use a semi-colon to "stack" entries to avoid the individual prompts. For example, if you were MARY STEVENSON, and your password was ABC, here's how to stack the entry:

```
  WELCOME TO THE SCHOOL BOARD
  What is your FIRST Name?
  MARY;STEVENSON;ABC

  Checking Users...
  Logging MARY STEVENSON

  RBBS-PC VERSION CPC14.1D  NODE 1
  OPERATING AT 1200 BAUD,N,8,1

  <Ctrl K> or <Ctrl X> aborts <Ctrl S>   suspends
```

2.3 Main Menu Display

The Main Menu display will contain a version number of RBBS-PC being used, and a status line reporting your call number and the status of active messages, including the last one you read.

```
!                                                                          !
!                    RBBS-PC Version CPC14.1D  Node  1                     !
! Caller #1038  #active msgs: 61  Next msg #276  Last msg read: 272         !
!                                                                          !
```

```
!                                                                          !
!              !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!               !
!              !!! o                                          o !!!        !
!              !!!  t h e   S C H O O L   B O A R D            !!!        !
!              !!!                                             !!!        !
!              !!!  24hrs * 300/1200 bps * at EIRC             !!!        !
!              !!!                                             !!!        !
!              !!! o   MAIN MENU Command Codes              o  !!!        !
!              !!                                              !!         !
!              !   Message    Other Menus   General           !          !
!              !------------+-----------+-------------!       !          !
!              ! C to Sysop  ! B ULLETIN ! ?  Overview !       !          !
!              ! E nter      ! F ILE     ! H  elp      !       !          !
!              ! K ill       ! J OIN     ! O  call op  !       !          !
!              ! P your mail ! U TILITY  ! L  set page !       !          !
!              ! R ead       +-----------+ I  welcome  !       !          !
!              ! S can       ! Not Used  !            !       !          !
!              ! Q scan      ! --------- !  G log-off  !       !          !
!              ! o           !  D V W    !          o !       !          !
!              !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!               !
!                                                                          !
!     Main Functions <B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,O,P,Q,R,S,U,V,W,X,?>?          !
!                                                                          !
```

2.4 **Command Prompt** The "alphabet" prompt at the bottom of the Main Menu screen are the command letters of for various commands used in the system.

2.5 Expert Prompt Mode

The full menu, shown on the previous page, provides cues for the commands, and will normally appear each time you enter the Main Menu. This is also true for the FILE and UTILITIES sub-system menus.

As you gain more experience with the Board, you'll find that you've "learned" the letter commands and won't need this reference. Since each sub-system menu uses 15-20 lines of text, re-displaying them as you navigate the Board slows your use of the system.

You can eliminate the full-menu (novice) display by entering an X at the MAIN FUNCTIONS prompt. Thereafter only a single line (expert) function prompt will be displayed.

```
Main Functions <B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,O,P,Q,R,S,U,V,W,X,?>?
```

If you later forget a command or two, you can return the full menu display at any time by entering X to switch (toggle) back to the full menu (novice) display.

The Expert Prompt option is one of the functions that remain the same as you move to and from the Main Menu, CONFERENCE, FILES, and UTILITIES sub-systems.

Since most of the other functions change with entry into a new sub-system, it is suggested that you continue to use the full (novice) prompt mode until you are familiar with the commands used in each of the sub-systems.

2.6 **Main Functions Summary** B C D E F G H I J K L O P

An alphabetical summmary of the Main Functions of the Board follows. In cases where the function, screen or more extensive reference is offered elsewhere in the Guide, the reader is referred to that page.

command	command function	description
B	Bulletin List	Display list of current bulletins. A screen is shown on page 18.
C	Comment to System Operator	Enter a message to Sysop Refer to page 31
D	Enter a System "Door"	Not currently available
E	Enter a Message	Enter a public or private message Refer to page 30
F	File Sub-system	Enter the FILES Sub-System Refer to page 33
G	Goodbye	Logs-on the Board, disconnects
H	Help	Display help screen. Main Menu help on page 25, File sub-system on page 33, Utilities sub-system on page 42.
I	Initial screen	Displays initial (welcome) screen Refer to page 16.
J	Join conference	Displays conference prompt
K	Kill message	Deletes specified message(s). Only by originator/receiver. Refer to page 29
L	Length	Sets scroll page from 0-23 lines. 0 is continuous.
O	Operator page	Sounds tone to page Sysop for chat mode. Refer to page 31
P	Personal mail	Checks for messages to user. Returns message numbers or no mail response.

2.6 Main Functions Summary Q R S U V W X ?

An alphabetical summmary of the Main Functions of the Board continues. For functions, screens, or more extensive references is offered elsewhere, the reader is referred to that page.

command	command function	description
Q	Quick Scan	Performs quick scan of message numbers and subjects p.28
R	Read Message	Displays full text of specific messages p.28
S	Scan Messages	Displays message headers with to/from subject, protect status p.27
U	Utilities	Enters Utilities sub-system p.41
V	View	Display current options p.45
W	Who	Not currently available
X	Prompt mode	Toggles Novice (full) Expert (line) display of system/sub-system functions
?	Overview	Display system overview screen p.17

You may want to make a copy of this and the previous page to serve as summary guide for your use of the Main Menu commands.

Keep in mind that, as you move to the sub-systems (FILES, UTILITIES, MESSAGES), these commands will change. Refer to those Guide sections for the specific commands used within the other sub-systems.

2.7 Main Function Help Screen

Entry of H at the Main Functions prompt will display the following help screen:

```
MAIN MENU COMMAND SUMMARY --  Help page 1
B) ULLETIN MENU       C) omment for SYSOP
D) (not used)         E) nter message
F) ILE FUNCTION MENU
G) oodbye ..... Log off SCHOOL BOARD
H) elp ..... Displays this page
I) nitial ..... Displays welcome
J) oin ..... Join a Conference
K) ill ..... Erases message
L) ines per page  Page scroll length
O) perator page . Calls SYSOP
P) ersonal mail . List messages to you
Q) uick scan .... List msg topics
R) ead message(s) Select #s to read
S) can messages . List msg headers
U) TILITY FUNCTION MENU
V) (not used)         W) (not used)
X) pert menu .. Full menu or prompt only
?) Overview of SCHOOL BOARD
```

As you move to other sub-systems, you'll find that the H command will usually bring you a screen like this one with cue for the commands of that sub-system.

Chapter 3 - MESSAGE SUB-SYSTEM

3.1 Message Functions 27
3.2 S can messages 27
3.3 Q uick scan messages 28
3.4 R ead message(s) 28
3.5 K ill message(s) 29
3.6 P ersonal message check 29
3.7 E nter a message 30
3.8 Message Edit Help Screen 31
3.9 C omment to System Operator 31

3.1 Message Functions

The Message Sub-system is part of the Main Menu of the Board. It uses seven commands in the Main Functions prompt: S Q R K P E C

3.2 S can messages

Entering S at the Main Functions prompt will display a prompt containing the range of active message numbers on the system.

Msg # (7 to 298, *, <H>elp)?

The following scan entries may be entered at this prompt:

7 scans active messages from 7 to 298 (last message)
298- scans active messages from 298 to 7 (first message)
* scans only for messages you have not read (unread)

Assuming you entered 7 the following parts of each message are displayed:

```
!-------------------------------------------!
!                                           !
!  Msg #  7  Dated 12-18-86 11:04:31        !
!  From: SYSOP                              !
!  To: BARRY CLYMER                         !
!  Re: VISUAL AIDS                          !
!                                           !
!   Msg #  20   Dated 1-09-86 22:49:04      !
!   From: BILL WEST                         !
!   To: ALL                                 !
!   Re: HELLO...                            !
```

(these summary (scan) message headers would continue to...)

```
!   Msg # 298  Dated 2-22-86 19:38:57       !
!   From: VINCENT JOSEPH                    !
!   To: ALL                                 !
!   Re: REPLY TO ANDY                       !
!-------------------------------------------!
```

SCAN shows only the "headers" of the messages. To see the full text of the message, the R (read) command is used.

3.3 Quick-scan messages

Entering Q at the Main Functions prompt will return a prompt like that for S:

Msg # (7 to 298, *, <H>elp)?

Again, the prompt indicates that messages on the system range between numbers 7 and 298 are active. If you enter the number of the lowest message (in this case 7), the system will display the numbers and subject of all active messages:

```
!_____________________!
!                     !
!   7 VISUAL AIDS     !   QUICK SCAN shows only the message number
!  20 THE JJ BBS      !   and the subject. Only the numbers of act-
!  24 THE MEETING     !   ive messages are shown.  If a message is
!  25 (R)INTRO        !   private, that status is indicated by an
! *298 REPLY TO ANDY  !   an asterisk.
!                     !
! End of Msgs         !
!_____________________!
```

3.4 Read messages

Entering R at the Main Functions prompt will return a prompt line like the one shown for S or Q:

Msg # (7 to 298, *, <H>elp)? 7

At this prompt enter the number (or numbers) of messages you'd like to read, and the full text will be displayed. In the example below, 7 was entered:

```
!_____________________________________________________________________!
!                                                                     !
!     Msg #  7  Dated 12-18-86 11:04:31                               !
!     From: SYSOP                                                     !
!     To: BARRY CLYMER                                                !
!       Re: VISUAL AIDS                                               !
!                                                                     !
!     Barry, the address you wanted for the large type display for    !
!     the terminal is: Wilson Graphics, 222 Wilson Blvd.Canton OH     !
!     88299 their 800 is 232-5555. Let me know if this is the item    !
!     you were interested in.                                         !
!_____________________________________________________________________!
```

When the message has been displayed the message prompt line returns for further message requests. To exit the MESSAGE SUB-SYSTEM press [ENTER] and you'll be returned to the Main Menu.

3.4 **R ead messages** - continued

Several commands can be used in the display of the full messages (as with Q or S). These commands may be "stacked" to avoid having to address two prompts. For example:

R;* at the MAIN FUNCTION prompt displays the full text of all messages you haven't read yet
R;20 displays message 20
R;200- displays messages backward from 200
R;50+ displays messages forwared from 50
R;50-60 displays messages from 50 to 60

3.5 **K ill messages**

Entering K at the Main Functions prompt will display the prompt line:

Msg # to Kill?

Enter in the number of the message you wish to delete and press [ENTER]. You may "kill" only messages you have originated or that are addressed to you. It is also possible to "stack" multiple kills with the semi-colon.

3.6 **P ersonal message check**

Entering an P at the Main Functions prompt will list the numbers of all active messages currently addressed to you. For example:

```
!                                                                    !
!  Main Functions <B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,O,P,Q,R,S,U,V,W,X,?>? p     !
!  Mail may be for YOU (* = Private)                                 !
!           34 *56  78                                               !
!  Mail you may have left                                            !
!        11 44                                                       !
!  Please <K>ill your old or unneeded messages                       !
!                                                                    !
```

A "status" line will list the numbers of messages for you and those of active messages still posted on the system. Refer to the previous paragraphs for the specific procedures for SCAN, QUICKSCAN, READ and KILL.

3.7 E nter a message

Entering E at the Main Functions prompt will return the following prompt:

To (Press [ENTER] for All)?

If you wish the message to be read by all, simply [ENTER] at the prompt. If you are sending the message to a particular person, type in that name at the prompt. Note: The name must be EXACTLY that of the user. If you're not sure of how the name is registered you can check it through the Utility Menu.

Subject?

The next line asks for the subject of the message. The sub-system will continue to prompt you until you supply some subject name.

Security: K)ill, P)assword, R)eceiver, N)one, H)elp, [ENTER]=

The next line asks for the type of security to be assigned to the message. The most general security is none, so N would be entered. At this point, the message editor appears on the screen:

Type message (Press [ENTER] to end, 19 lines max)

```
[-----------------------------------------------------]
1:
```

The message is then entered, to a maximum of 19 lines. If you do not need to use that many lines, press [ENTER] on a blank line and the following prompt will be shown:

Editor Sub-function <A,C,D,E,I,L,M,S,?>? ?

If, at this point, you wish to LIST the message you've prepared, enter L at the prompt and a numbered version of your message appears. The numbers are used in editing. For example, the I command prompts for the line number before which an inserted line is to be place.

D prompts for the line number for deletion. E prompts for line number to edit. Once in the line edit mode, it is necessary to enter the OLDTEXT;newtext (old semi-colon new) and press return. You can re-read with the LIST command.

Finally S sends the message to the Board where it is assigned a message number. The command A will abort the message and it will not be entered in the system.

3.7 **E nter a message** - continued

D ELETE -- D prompts for the line number for deletion, then confirms your intention to delete the line.

E DIT -- E prompts for a line number to edit. That line is displayed. The edit prompt then accepts changes in the form: OLDTEXT;newtext (old semi-colon new) Only one line is edited at a time.

S END -- S stores the message on the Board where it is assigned a message number.

A BORT -- A aborts and erases the message which is not entered in the System.

3.8 **Message Edit Help Screen**

Entry of ? displays the following help screen:

```
! 3/87      MESSAGE SUB-SYSTEM COMMAND SUMMARY      Help 04 !
! A bort    Message entry aborted, return to the MAIN MENU  !
! C ontinue Message entry is continued after last line #   !
! D elete   Line number to delete is requested next        !
! E dit      Line number to edit is requested next         !
! L ist      Complete text of message is displayed         !
! I nsert    Line number before insert is requested next   !
! M argin    New column # for right margin is requested    !
! S end      Message is sent as is and number is appended  !
```

3.9 **Comment to System Operator**

The C command functions in exactly the same way as E, with the exception that the Sysop is understood to be the addressee of the message. The entry form is the same as for a regular message.

Chapter 4 - FILE SUB-SYSTEM

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4.5 Quit to MAIN MENU 39

4.1 File Sub-System Menu

The FILE Sub-system is accessed by entering an F at the MAIN FUNCTIONS prompt. The Board will then return a File Sub-System Menu as shown below:

```
!-------------------------------------------------!
!  ---------------------------------------------  !
!       THE SCHOOL BOARD - FILE MENU              !
!  ---------------------------------------------  !
!    Transfer   !  Info         ! other menus      !
!  -------------+---------------+----------------  !
!   D) ownload  ! L) ist files  ! Q) MAIN          !
!   U) pload    ! H) elp info   ! F) iles          !
!   ?) tutorial ! S) earch      ! U) tilities      !
!  -------------!   directories  ----------------  !
!   General     ! N) list new files               !
!  Commands     ! ; use to stack (L;dirname)      !
!    ------------------------------------------    !
!    X) pert prompt on/off    G) logoff            !
!  ==============================================  !
!                                                  !
!   File Function <D,G,H,L,N,Q,S,U,X,?>? ?         !
!-------------------------------------------------!
```

4.2 File Sub-System Help

Entry of H at the File Function prompt will display the help screen shown below:

```
!-------------------------------------------------------------------!
!                                                                   !
!  ================== FILE FUNCTION HELP FILE ==================    !
!                                                                   !
!  D/ OWNLOAD .. file (e.g. XMODEM, XMODEM/CRC, ASCII text)         !
!  G/ OODBYE .. Exit from the SCHOOL BOARD                          !
!  H/ ELP ..... Displays this page                                  !
!  L/ IST ..... Displays files available for download for all       !
!               directories or for particular directory             !
!  N/ EW ...... Displays new files uploaded since last logon or     !
!               after a specific date by one or more directories    !
!  Q/ UIT .....  To Main function menu                              !
!  S/ EARCH ...  Search directories for specific character string   !
!  U) PLOAD ...  To the system (specify protocol to be used) text)  !
!  ?) Extra Help - Detailed instructions on up/down-loading         !
!                                                                   !
!  ================================================================ !
!-------------------------------------------------------------------!
```

4.3 File Sub-System Extra Help ?

Entry of the question mark at the FILE sub-system prompt will display detailed information about file transfer procedures. This text is extensive, but it is suggested that you take the time to review it as well as the instruction guide supplied with your terminal program.

```
!                                                                    !
!  ================= File Sub-System Extra HELP ====================  !
!                                                                    !
!  The FILE SUB-SYSTEM enables you to move files to and from your    !
!  computer to the SCHOOL BOARD.  DOWNLOADING moves files from the   !
!  Board to your computer, UPLOADING moves files from your computer  !
!  to the Board.                                                     !
!                                                                    !
```

4.31 Using the File Sub-System

To use the FILES SUB-SYSTEM, enter F at the Main Functions prompt. A FILES SUB-SYSTEM MENU will be displayed. Note the the prompt contains a different set of commands that are specific to the FILE SUB-SYSTEM.

4.32 Listing File Directories - L

The L command returns a list of the directories available on the Board, then returns to the FILE SUB-SYSTEM prompt.

4.33 Listing Directory Contents

To list the names of files within a specific directory, enter L;XX where XX is the code for the directory you'd like to see. If you'd like to see multiple directories, the commands may be "stacked" with a semi-colon, for example: L;CM;OL;PC

4.34 Directory Listings

Each listing contains the file name, the size of the file in bytes, and the date it was uploaded. The file names use the PC convention of a maximum of eight characters with a 3-character "extension." An .ARC extension indicates that the file is compressed and cannot be downloaded using ASCII. (It must be downloaded using Xmodem and de-compressed before use). A file extension of .EXE indicates a EXEcutable file, (Xmodem must also be used this file). The .DOC or .TXT indicates a text file which may be downloaded in ASCII.

4.3 File Sub-System Extra Help - continued

4.35 **Listing New Files**

To list the files added since your last directory review simply enter N;XX where XX is the directory to be searched. For example N;CM;OL displays just new files added to those two directories since your time on the Board. N;ALL checks all directory files for new filenames.

4.36 **File Transfer Protocols**

File transfers can be made either in ASCII text or by using XMODEM protocol. The ASCII transfer can displayed to your your screen, printer or to a disk if your terminal program is capable of data capture. XMODEM protocol does not produce visible text, cannot be "captured" and is an actual file that must be received by your system before it can be run.

==========

Note: Users of Apple/Franklin systems may have terminal programs supporting XMODEM or "Christenson" transfer protocol, however, the SCHOOL BOARD does not currently support XMODEM for these machines. Users of these machines are currently limited to ASCII transfer. Until further notice, only the PC 8-bit format is supported by XMODEM.

==========

4.3 File Sub-System Extra Help - continued

4.37 **ASCII Data Capture**

To download an ASCII file, use the following procedure:

[ ] 1. List the files available for download using the L)ist command and either capture the list to your printer or write down the exact names of the files you want to receive.

[ ] 2. After returning to the Files Menu, select D)ownload. When the Board requests the filename prompt, enter the EXACT FILENAME including a period if an extension is included in the name. When the Board prompts for the type of download you want, enter A for A)scii.

[ ] 3. When the Board prompts you to open your capture file, issue the local commands needed by your terminal program to recive a file. Then enter a single [RETURN] to signal you're ready to receive.

[ ] 4. The file will be sent a line at a time, and you'll see the text on your screen. To halt the transmission temporarily, enter [Ctrl[[S]. To resume a [Ctrl [Q] will restart.

[ ] 5. When the file transfer is finished, the Board will send an end-of-file-marker followed by 5 beeps signaling you to close your capture file.

[ ] 6. The Board will then return you to the to the File Menu.

4.3 File Sub-System Extra Help - continued

4.38 **XMODEM File Transfer**

XMODEM offers a block check to assure that the data sent contains no errors. It does this by adding a checksum byte to the end of each block of data; the receiver calculates its own checksum and compares it to the one received. If an error is detected in the transmission, XMODEM will request that host to retransmit the block of data.

If your terminal program handles XMODEM on your system, files with EXE, OBJ and COM extensions and token BASIC files can be downloaded.

Files containing the IBM PC special ASCII characters (ones with ASCII values above 128) can also be transferred with XMODEM -- this includes Wordstar files. (These files cannot be transferred in ASCII mode since ASCII transfer is 7 bit and these files require the full 8 bit transfer of the data).

To download using XMODEM protocol, use the following procedure:

[ ] 1. List the files available for download using the L)ist command and either capture the list to your printer or write down the exact names of the files you want to receive.

[ ] 2. After returning to the Files Menu, select D)ownload. When the Board requests the filename prompt, enter the EXACT FILENAME including a period if an extension is included in the name. When the Board prompts for the type of download you want, enter X for X)modem.

[ ] 3. If you called in using EVEN parity the Board will tell you to switch to NO parity and 8 data bits. If you called in using 8 data bits the system will not give you this message.

[ ] 4. When the Board prompts you to open your capture file, issue the local commands needed by your terminal program to receive a file. Then enter a single [RETURN] to signal that you're ready to receive.

[ ] 5. The file will be transferred automatically by XMODEM. If necessary, you canabort the transfer by entering a [CONTROL] [X]. You can re-start the process only from the beginning.

[ ] 6. When the file transfer is finished, XMODEM will automatically close your capture file.

4.3 File Sub-System Extra Help - continued

4.39 **File Uploading**

[ ] 1. From the Files Menu, select U)ploadd. When the Board requests the filename prompt, enter the name you've given the file.

[ ] 2. The Board will display a ready prompt.

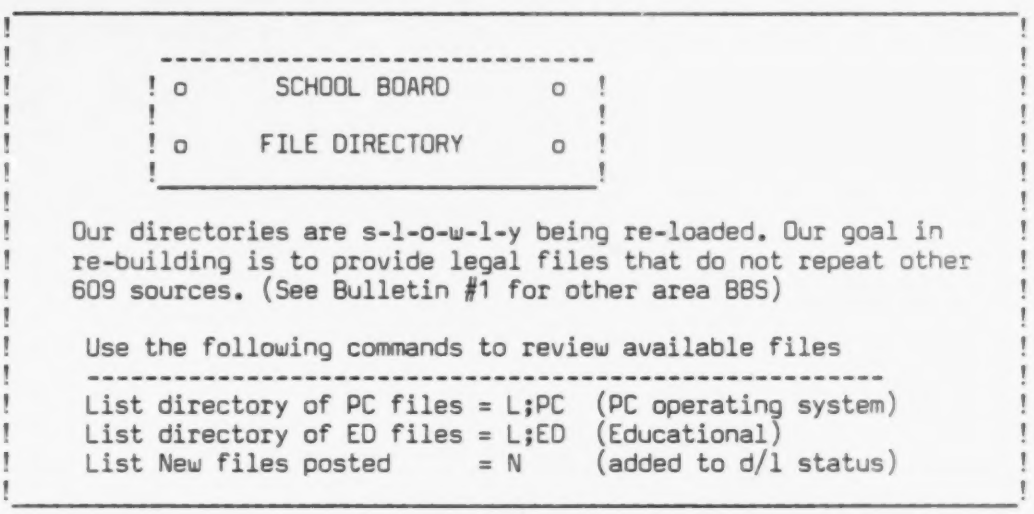
[ ] 3. Enter the appropriate local commands to your terminal program for file transmission.

[ ] 4. When transmission is complete the Board will prompt you for a file description. If the file is only for the Sysop precede the description line with the character

Since the transmission of files is done primarily by your terminal program, you'll need to become familiar with its operation. If you have problems, a general system message with specifics about the difficulty might help in giving you more information from another user who has specific experience with your system and terminal program.

4.4 File Directory

Entry of L at the File Function prompt will display the File Directory screen shown below:


SCHOOL BOARD
FILE DIRECTORY
Our directories are s-l-o-w-l-y being re-loaded. Our goal in re-building is to provide legal files that do not repeat other 609 sources. (See Bulletin #1 for other area BBS)
Use the following commands to review available files
List directory of PC files = L;PC (PC operating system)
List directory of ED files = L;ED (Educational)
List New files posted = N (added to d/l status)

The File Directory will display the codes of all active file sections on the Board. To list the contents of a file section, enter L then a semi-colon then the code for the directory you wish to view.

As with messages, you may "stack" the command to view multiple directories. For example L;PC;ED. It's a good idea to jot down the EXACT NAME of a file you wish to download, since there are often multiple pages of file listings.

If you wish to look at only the names of files entered since your last visit to the Board, enter N at the File Function prompt and then ALL for a search of all directories.

4.5 Quit to Main Menu

Entry of Q at the File Sub-System prompt returns you to the Main Menu functions.

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5.12 Review User Preferences 45
5.13 System Statistics 45
5.14 Time used 45
5.15 User log 46
5.16 Expert Prompt Mode 46
5.17 Page Prompt Bell 46
5.18 Quit to Main Menu 46

5.1 Utilities Sub-System Menu

Entry of **U** at the Main Functions prompt moves you to the UTILITY SUB-SYSTEM and displays the following menu:

```
!-----------------------------------!
!      UTILITY SUB-SYSTEM           !
!-----------------------------------!
!                                   !
!  B) aud rate 300->450             !
!   C) ase change (upper/lower)     !
!    F) ile transfer protocol       !
!     G) raphics                    !
!      L) ine feeds (on/off)        !
!       M) essage margin            !
!        N) ulls (on/off)           !
!                                   !
!  P) assword changes               !
!   R) eview user's preferences     !
!    S) ystem statistics            !
!     T) ime used                   !
!      U) ser log                   !
!       X) pert (on/off)            !
!        !) Prompt bell (on/off)    !
!-----------------------------------!
```

5.2 Utilities Sub-System Prompt

```
!-----------------------------------------------------------!
!  UTILITY FUNCTIONS <B,C,F,G,H,L,M,N,P,Q,R,S,T,U,X,!>?     !
!-----------------------------------------------------------!
```

You'll notice that the prompt line of letters below the menu has changed. It has some of the same letters as the Main Menu, however, they now have different FUNCTIONS.

These letters perform a new set of tasks (functions) that are specific to the UTLITIES SUB-SYSTEM. Just as in the Main Menu, you can call up a help screen that will remind you of these functions and their specific tasks.

5.3 Utility Help Screen

Entry of H at the Utilities Sub-System prompt will display the following help screen:

```
 ================= Utility Sub-System Commands ======================
!                                                                      !
! B aud rate .... Switch from 300 to 450 baud (bps)                    !
! C ase change .. Switch to all caps output or to upper/lower case     !
! F ile protocol  Specify default file transfer protocol               !
! G raphics ..... Select options for menu displays                     !
! H elp ......... Display this screen                                  !
! L ine feeds ... Switch on/off extra line feed                        !
! M argin ....... Specify your default message margin                  !
! N ulls......... Switch on/off extra delay with carriage return       !
! P assword...... Change your logon password                           !
! Q uit ......... Return to Main Menu                                  !
! R eview ....... Display your profile of preferences                  !
! S tatistics ... Display statistics on School Board use               !
! T ime ......... Display current time and elapsed time of call        !
! U ser ......... Display caller list or user roster                   !
! X eXpert ...... Switch on/off expert/novice menu/no-menu mode        !
! ! prompt bell   Switch on/off bell after each page display           !
!                                                                      !
! * <Ctrl K> or <Ctrl X> aborts <Ctrl S> suspends *                    !
!______________________________________________________________________!
```

5.4 Baud rate change - B

If you are using a 300 baud (bps) modem, it may be possible for the board to increase its transmission rate to 450 baud (bps). Note this option works only for certain 300 baud modems.

5.5 Case change - C

Entry of C at the Utility Sub-System prompt will change your display to upper case letters. A second C entry restores the Upper and Lower case display.

```
!______________________________________________________________________!
!                                                                      !
!  UTILITY FUNCTIONS <B,C,F,G,H,L,M,N,P,Q,R,S,T,U,X,!>? c              !
!     UPPER CASE and lower                                             !
!______________________________________________________________________!
```

5.6 File Transfer Protocol F

Entry of F at the Utilities Sub-System prompt will display a brief menu of choices:

```
! Entry -- specify the default file transfer protocol you use
! FILE transfer default type <A>scii <X>modem <C>Xmodem/CRC <N>one?
!
! PROTOCOL: Ascii
```

Consult the discussion in section 4 about the file transfer options. The type of computer and the terminal program you are using will determine which of these options you can use. Your choice will be displayed after you enter it.

5.7 Graphics G

Entry of G at the Utilities Sub-System prompt will display a brief menu of choices. The SCHOOL BOARD does not currently support graphic displays. Regardless of your choice at this prompt, only ASCII text will be displayed.

5.8 Line Feeds L

With some computers and/or terminal programs it will be necessary to supply an extra line feed. You'll notice this if your text remains on a single line and is continuously over- written. If all text is double-spacing of the text on your screen, you may want to turn off the extra line feed. Entry of L at the Utilities Sub-System prompt turns this feature on and off.

5.9 Message Margin M

If your terminal displays fewer than 80-columns, you may want to reset the right margin for message display. You may set up the margin from 8 to 72 characters at the prompt that appears after you enter M at the Utilities Sub-System prompt:

```
SET Right-Margin from 72 TO (8...72)? 40
Margin now 40.
```

5.10 Nulls N

A null is a "blank" that was once used to help computers keep pace with older and slower teletype printers. It is unlikely that you'll need this option and it will tend to slow down your use of the Board when switched on.

Entry of N at the Utilities Sub-System prompt will display a Null status message:

```
Utility Functions <B,C,F,G,H,L,M,N,P,Q,R,S,T,U,X,!>? n
Nulls On
```

Entry of another N at the Utilities Sub-System prompt will display a Null status message:

```
Utility Functions <B,C,F,G,H,L,M,N,P,Q,R,S,T,U,X,!>? n
Nulls Off
```

5.11 Password

Entry of P at the Utilities Sub-System prompt will display the prompts shown below:

```
Utility Functions <B,C,F,G,H,L,M,N,P,Q,R,S,T,U,X,!>? p

change your logon password
Enter new password? ....
Reenter new password? ....
```

Without displaying your old password, the Board will prompt for it. If correctly entered, a new password will then be accepted. Be sure to record or remember your password. Neither the old or new password will be displayed by the Board.

5.12 **Review User Profile**

Entry of R at the UTILITIES SUB-SYSTEM prompt will display a list of current settings registered for you. These settings may be changed at any time through other Utility funcations.

```
!-------------------------!
!                         !
!  Expert                 !
!  GRAPHICS: None         !
!  PROTOCOL: Xmodem       !
!  UPPER CASE and lower   !
!  Line Feeds On          !
!  Nulls Off              !
!  Prompting Bell Off     !
!                         !
!-------------------------!
```

5.13 **System Statistics**

Entry of S at the UTILITIES SUB-SYSTEM prompt will display current statistics about the Board. In addition to the program and the screen will display the number of uses, active messages, highest message number, and the last message number you read.

```
!-------------------------------------------------------------------------!
!                                                                         !
! RBBS-PC Version CPC14.1D  Node  1                                       !
!                                                                         !
! Caller # 1331 active msgs: 73  Next msg # 335  Last msg read: 333       !
!                                                                         !
! USERS: 160 avl 83  MSGS: 73 avl 127  MSG REC: 365 avl 638               !
!                                                                         !
!-------------------------------------------------------------------------!
```

5.14 **Time**

Entry of T at the UTILITIES SUB-SYSTEM prompt will display current time and the amount of time you have spent on the Board during the session

Now 12:00 PM Time on: 3 Min & 42 Sec

5.15 User Log U

Entry of U at the UTILITIES SUB-SYSTEM prompt will a prompt for either a list of users or a listing of recent callers.

```
! List - <U>sers, <R>ecent callers, Press [ENTER] to quit? u   !
```

Entry of U at the List Prompt will display a list of registered Board users, their towns, computers used, and last date and time on the Board.

```
! JEFF LINDER    WEST BERLIN NJ       C-128      02-28-87  08:43 !
! STEPHEN OTHMAR CLINTON, ONTARIO     IBMPC      02-22-87  11:34 !
! ANNE HANLON    SOMERDALE, NJ        APPLE IIC  02-08-87  20:32 !
```

Entry of R at the List Prompt will display a list of recent callers to the Board, beginning from the most recent.

```
! MARIE SULLIVAN on at 03-06-87, 11:45 AM from GLASSBORO NJ      !
!                  300 BAUD,E,7,1  Logged off at 11:53 AM        !
! ESTELLE BROWN on at 03-06-87, 11:37 AM from LATROBE PA         !
!                 1200 BAUD,N,8,1 Logged off at 11:43 AM         !
```

5.16 Expert Prompt

Entry of X at the UTILITIES SUB-SYSTEM prompt will eliminate display of the full menu and show only the prompt line.

5.17 Prompt bell

Entry of ! at the UTILITIES SUB-SYSTEM prompt will cause the Board to issue a bell (beep) at the end of each page scrolled.

5.18 Quit to Main Menu

Entry of Q at the UTILITIES SUB-SYSTEM prompt will return to the Main Menu prompt.

Chapter 6 - CONFERENCE SUB-SYSTEM

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The CONFERENCE SUB-SYSTEM is a separate message area for users with specialized interests. For example, the SCHOOL BOARD maintains conferences for Commodore and Tandy computer users as well as for ACCESS, a telecommunciation education project of EIRC.

The advantage of the Conference area is that "mail" intended for a particular topic may be handled apart from the general message sub-system contained in the Main Menu.

Conferences are either private or public. Anyone can join a public conference at any time. Access to a private conference is available only to users who are registered in that Conference by the System Operator (Sysop).

At present, conferences do not have separate bulletin or file sub-systems. When you access those sub-systems, you'll be seeing the same ones available from the Main Menu.

6.1 Conference Join Prompt

Entry of J at the Main Functions prompt will display the CONFERENCE SUB-SYSTEM prompt:

```
Conference Function  <J>oin, <L>ist, <M>ain, <Q>uit, <X>pert?
```

6.2 Conference List Command

Entry of L at the CONFERENCE FUNCTION propmt will return a listing of the current conferences available on the BOARD:

```
      SCHOOL BOARD CONFERENCES

          Public Conferences
       ----------------------
       COMMO - Commodore users
       TANDY - Radio Shack users

          Private Conferences
  -------------------------------
  ACCESS - Project ACCESS members

          Conference Commands
       -------------------------
  J) oin    Q) uit    M) ain Menu
```

6.3 Conference Join Command

Entry of J at the Conference Function prompt will display the following prompt:

```
Enter conference name?
```

At this prompt, enter the name of the conference you wish to use. You may have to refer to the conference list at first to be sure of the conference name to enter.

6.4 Conference Welcome Screen

Assuming you wanted to join the Commo (Commodore) Conference, you'd enter COMMO at the prompt. The Board would then confirm your entry into the conference:

```
Welcome to the COMMO Conference

Checking messages.
Mail may be for YOU (* = Private)
38
Mail you may have left
10   34   45   *46
Please <K>ill your old or unneeded messages

R88S-PC Version CPC14.1D  Node 1
# active msgs: 25  Next msg # 52   Last msg read: 50
USERS: used 170 avl 73
MSGS: used 25 avl 175   MSG REC: used 161  avl 843
```

6.5 Conference Function Prompt

After the conference message status text is displayed, the Conference Function Prompt will appear:

```
COMMO Conference
 Main Functions <B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,O,P,Q,R,S,U,V,W,X,?>?
```

6.5 Important Note to Conference Users

The functions of Conference Sub-System prompt, unlike the FILE and UTILITY SUB-SYSTEM prompts, are IDENTICAL to that of the MAIN MENU. Refer to that section for details.

The ONLY functional difference in the CONFERENCE SUB-SYSTEM is that it uses a separate set of messages that are specific to a particular Conference.

The ONLY command difference is that the Q command at the Conference Function prompt returns you to the MAIN MENU. At that point you'll be using the general Board messges, rather than the ones specific to a particular Conference.

The ONLY "cue" you'll have that you are in the Conference Sub-System, is that the name of the conference you're using will be shown about the main functions prompt as shown below:

```
!                                                                    !
!  COMMO Conference                                                  !
!   Main Functions <B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,O,P,Q,R,S,U,V,W,X,?>?      !
!                                                                    !
```

All functions (other than Q) will operate exactly as they do for the MAIN MENU. Refer to prior sections for information on their use and function.